

BARRE GAZETTE

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Crayfish expert offers youth a *freshwater* adventure



Members of the Hardwick Youth Center pose with East Quabbin Land Trust's Youth Education Coordinator, Pat Allison, during a snowy hike at Mandell Hill in Hardwick, one of the land trust's preserves.

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – Pat Allison has always had a deep appreciation for nature and wildlife, more specifically for small freshwater crustaceans found in streams and rivers. “I’m obsessed with crayfish,” said Allison as he pointed out several posters of crayfish adorning his office walls during a recent Zoom interview.

A native of Pennsylvania, Allison received a bachelor of science degree in conservation and wildlife management from Delaware Valley University and a master of science in biology from West Liberty University in West Virginia. Allison has pursued his “obsession” as his career focus.

After graduate school, Allison worked as a park ranger at Valley Forge National Historic Park in Pennsylvania. More recently, he joined AmeriCorps and became a TerraCorps member with the East Quabbin Land Trust, based in Hardwick. Allison’s role with the land trust is that of Youth Education Coordinator, one that he has adapted to quickly despite

pandemic challenges.

Allison said some of the things that drew him to the EQLT were the small, rural towns it encompasses. That, and this area is home to the Quinebaug River crayfish, a species that is only found in New England. Allison began his time with the land trust last year by taking families and small groups for “Brookside Adventures,” exploring the local waterways in search of freshwater life.

EQLT has built a strong youth education program with children in the area, providing regular programs designed to educate and engage young minds with the natural world. Past programs have included weekly walks among the land trust’s vast preserves, bird counts, pollinator gardens, ice fishing, community art projects and more.

In addition to his Brookside Adventures, Allison has formed the East Quabbin Book Rangers, a virtual story time and activity program focusing on environmental topics. Allison said that

See EQLT, page 6



Hardwick Youth Center members explore the aquatic life beneath the ice during an ice fishing experience at Forest Lake in Palmer.

Committee votes virtual academy cap

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Committee met last Thursday to discuss two agenda items.

Superintendent Sheila Muir said the Quabbin district has 25 students or 1.7% of its total students enrolled in two fully accredited online schools. Thirteen attend the Massachusetts Virtual Academy in Greenfield and 11 attend TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School also known as TECCA in East Walpole. Five of the students would graduate this year.

The superintendent said Governor Baker and Commissioner of Education Riley want all students in school next year and it would not be possible to offer virtual learning to students next year. She said the district’s enrollment in

the virtual academy could increase next year.

State law allowed school districts to vote for a 1% cap of its total enrollment for online schools. The Quabbin District was one of only 24 districts in the Commonwealth, which had more than 1% enrolled in the online schools. Supt. Muir said, “We are a minority.”

Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, said the school paid \$8,666 per student plus an administrative fee in tuition for each student and an assessment based on needs for special education students attending. The superintendent said if the committee voted the 1% cap, the vote would not effect the students already attending.

Committee vice-chair Mark Brophy inquired about the possi-

See BARRE, page 5

Town administrator reports on survey results

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – Town Administrator Ryan McLane reported to the select board on the results of the Hubbardston Community Survey.

He said 529 people, which was equal to 11% of the 2018 town population, responded. About 64% had school age children. The top four reasons why people lived in town were rural character, open space, good schools and low taxes. Respondents said they got their information about town from the town website, Facebook, word of mouth and public mailings. A little over 50% of the town said they supported the five-year road maintenance plan. Sixty-six percent felt the town should perform more maintenance.

Respondents said the five biggest problems facing town were limited cellular broadband, lack of retail business, road conditions, aging infrastructures and poor

municipal building conditions. Seventy-eight percent said they supported prioritized new buildings with the public safety building receiving the largest support. If the town should address the new building, 73% said they were willing to support it through increased taxes up to \$200 or less.

Planning board

The planning board met with the select board Feb. 18. Planning board chair, Alice Livdahl, gave an update on what the planning board was doing. She said the board was redrafting the sign zoning bylaw to simplify and clarify it. She said it should go on the annual town meeting warrant this year; it got postponed last year due to the pandemic. She said the town solar bylaw should be extensively revised as the current one was based on an old state model. She said the board used Athol’s solar bylaw as a model and would be holding a community outreach hearing prior

See HUBBARDSTON, page 6

Agreement for marijuana microbusiness discussed

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

HARDWICK – Ralph Rogers, owner of Adroit Manufacturing, a proposed marijuana product microbusiness, which would be located at 435 Lower Road, Gilbertville, attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, Feb. 22 to discuss the proposed community host agreement draft. Rogers, accompanied by his attorney Paul Cranston, reviewed the draft and highlighted some areas they thought could be revised.

Rogers said he had a number of comments and asked the board if he could read through the draft and voice his concerns. Rogers said the proposed draft seemed to view his microbusiness as a large scale, marijuana cultivation business. He explained his microbusiness would allow him to operate with a “tier 1” cultivation and product manufacturing license. This is the lowest tier the Cannabis Control Commission issues. Rogers said his proposed microbusiness is not “big cannabis money.” Rogers said that his microbusiness is more of a “mom and pop” establishment.

In the proposed draft, the town set the impact fee at the maximum 3% allowed by the law. Rogers said he understands the town anticipates a financial impact from his company, but he does not. Rogers said his proposed site will not utilize town sewer or water. He would have no more than eight people employed, but most likely only four working at a time, so the traffic impact would be negligible. Rogers said a 2% impact fee would be more suitable.

Under annual community benefits, in which Adroit Manufacturing would be allowed to make additional donations to the town, “included by not limited to local drug abuse prevention/treatment/education programs, which the company agrees to additionally pay in the amount and under the terms provided therein.” Rogers said he did not have any issues with making additional donations to benefit Hardwick, but that he would like terms applied to it amended. The terms state “For as long as the establishment is in operation, the company shall pay to the town the sum of \$____ annually.” Rogers wanted the “shall pay” removed from the terms, as he said it felt more like a fee than a donation.

See HARDWICK, page 5

Sap is running, it's maple syrup time



Grand Maple Farm in New Braintree is one of a number of local sugar shacks busy turning maple sap into maple syrup.



Justin Schur, who runs Grand Maple Farm in New Braintree with his father, Paul Schur, is already busy boiling the maple sap down into ever-popular maple syrup. This year they even have bourbon-flavored syrup.



Turley Publications courtesy photos by Robert Banthin

News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Post 2 to hold corned beef supper

American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, will be hosting a corned beef and cabbage supper Saturday, March 13 from 5-6:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 and only 70 tickets will be sold. There is no seating available, all meals will be delivered to people’s cars. People should call 978-355-2730 to reserve tickets. Ham will be available.

Library winter reading program
The Woods Memorial Library will host a winter reading program. People may register at barrelibrary.beanstack.org. They have challenges for children, teens and adults, with prizes for all ages. Children will track how many minutes are spent reading, while adults and teens track by the number of books read. There are multiple challenges for chances to win extra tickets toward the prize drawings, and new challenges will be added each week. Children win a free book for signing up that can be picked up in the lobby during outdoor hours. Winter Reading runs from now until Saturday, April 3 - prizes will be drawn at noon on April 3.

Quabbin Savings Card
The Barre Library Association is selling the Quabbin Savings card in their lobby during outdoor service hours. Cards are \$10 each and all proceeds benefit the library. The cards offer various discounts at 15 local businesses and are good throughout the year. People will get a ticket when they purchase a Quabbin Savings Card for a chance to win a basket featuring items from each of the participating businesses. People may pay with cash or make checks payable to Barre Library Association.

Post 2 to hold car side corned beef supper

BARRE – American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, will be hosting a corned beef and cabbage supper Saturday, March 13 from 5-6:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 and only 70 tickets will be sold. There is no seating available, all meals will be delivered to people’s cars. People should call 978-355-2730 to reserve tickets. Ham will be available.

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7 MUSIC WITH TOM KNIGHT @ 10 AM	8 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	9 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	10 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	11 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	12 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	13
14 PARENTS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!	15 MOC CFCE EARLY EDUCATION DISCOUNT MEETING 10 AM	16 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	17 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	18 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	19 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	20 facebook
21 Follow our events on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MOC CFCE Parent/ChildPlus	22 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	23 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	24 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	25 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	26 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	27
<p>All MOC CFCE programs are funded by the Department of Early Education and Care</p>						

**For an invite to virtual playgroups email us! mmaceven@mocinc.org kleclair@mocinc.org clapinskas@mocinc.org cdavis@mocinc.org

Food pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur Wednesday, March 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, March 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. The Wednesday morning distributions in 2021 are ending a half hour earlier than they have in the past, at 11:30 a.m.

The Barre Food Pantry schedules their two distributions each month on the morning of the second Wednesday and the evening of the third Thursday. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, March 10 or in the evening on Thursday, March 18, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 virus to which no one

has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

As they have since last spring’s distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, March 10 and 18 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They’ll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Barre Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

With all volunteers and clients now wearing masks in public, the volunteers hope that everyone will still hear the smiles in their voices.

While the pantry typically used to have an “all hands on deck” approach to welcoming volunteers, in March they will once again be working with just a very small crew.

They are preparing for the distribution by only working in shifts at the pantry, in small household/family groups.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on March 10 or 18 without first contacting Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

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Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Economic development committee hosts meet and greet

The Hubbardston Economic Development Committee will hold its second meet and greet Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. The committee invites Hubbardston business owners and residents alike to participate. This program will be a question and answer session for department heads and/or representatives of the departments to answer business related questions. Businesses should submit their questions to the EDC at hubb.edc@gmail.com, no later than Wednesday, March 10 and then join via Zoom Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. for answers to their questions, for follow-up questions and discussions. All questions will be read by a moderator, and business owners and residents, who have submitted questions, have the option of remaining anonymous. To log on people should go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86593213046> or phone 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099. Webinar ID is 865 9321 3046.

Country Hen scholarship
The 2021 Country Hen Scholarship forms will be due May. 1. Hubbardston students are eligible to apply for the scholarship funded by Country Hen.

Senior center
The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provençal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of March 8.
Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.
Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.
MON. – Chicken Mornay, couscous, Roman blend vegetables, butterscotch pudding, diet = sugar free vanilla pudding, marble rye bread
TUES. – Meatloaf and gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread
WED. – Shepherd’s pie, carrots, green beans, peaches, biscuit
THURS. – Roast turkey with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, peas, fresh fruit, Italian bread
FRI. – Fish with parmesan cream sauce, wild rice, broccoli with red peppers, tapioca pudding, diet tapioca pudding, pumpernickel bread
*Diabetic friendly dessert
**Higher sodium entree
Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

EQLT to hold work morning March 6

WARE – East Quabbin Land Trust will hold a work morning Saturday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to noon to help prepare the Frohloff farm for spring-time. Volunteers will install pasture fencing, prune the apple trees and clear invasive plants. They should park at the Rail Trail parking lot at 350 Church St. and dress for the weather and wear snow boots.

People should bring brush cutters, loppers, small chainsaws or handsaws. They must RSVP to EQLT@comcast.net so there will be enough snacks. EQLT is collecting non-perishable foods for Jubilee Cupboard during the morning at Frohloff Farm. Canned soup is a great item to donate. People should bring one or more cans of food for those in need.

Reader survey

Turley Publications created a readership survey to ask folks about how they get their news
To participate, people may go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Submissions are always welcome.
Send your engagement, wedding and birth announcements to edowner@turley.com

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – March 4 at 3 p.m.
Finance Committee – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Barre Cultural Council – March 8 at 1 p.m.
Board of Health – March 8 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – March 8 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – March 9 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – March 10 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – March 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Sewer Commission – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – March 24 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – March 25 at 11 a.m.
Election Day – April 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Historical Commission – April 5 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – April 13 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – March 8 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Wheelwright Water District – March 8 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – March 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – March 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – March 12 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – March 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Advisory Committee – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Finance Committee – March 22 at 5:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – March 4 and April 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Trustees – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – March 6 and April 3 at 10 a.m.
Council on Aging – March 12 at 10 a.m.
Select Board – March 15, March 29, April 12 and April 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Center Committee – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Economic Development Committee Meet and Greet – March 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – March 30 and April 27 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 6 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health –March 4 and March 18 at 7 p.m.
Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – March 5 at 10 a.m.
Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
Petersham Historic District – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – March 25 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Selectboard and Finance Committee Joint Budget Meeting – March 4 at 6 p.m.
Board of Assessors site walk – March 9 at 8 a.m.
Public Hearing Notice/Planning Board – March 9 at 6:50 p.m. and 7:05 p.m.

Haston Library offers Zoom presentation

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., will host a 90-minute Zoom presentation Thursday, March 11 at 7 p.m. with landscaper and naturalist, John Root.

The presentation describes the essential roles played by pollinators and other beneficial organisms in the ecosystem and offers guidance on meeting their needs for food, cover and water. In meeting the needs of birds, pollinators, and other essential wildlife, people can also add beauty and interest to their yards and gardens. He will discuss a variety of plants that nourish these organisms throughout their life cycles and present organic methods for establishing wildlife habitat.

Handouts will be available to download and comments and questions will be welcome at the conclusion of the program.

John Root is the owner of Earthwise Landscaping in Amherst, which focuses on establishing appealing and productive landscapes that welcome wildlife and foster intimate connections with nature for people of all ages. His lecture topics include Songbirds of the Northeast, Hummingbirds of the Americas, Butterflies of the World, Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast, Mushrooms of the Northeast, Organic Gardening for Everyone and Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping.

In addition to landscaping and lecturing about nature, John is also a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who presents programs featuring popular music from the first half of the twentieth century for audiences of all ages at libraries, historical societies, schools, senior centers, long term care residences and other venues throughout New England.

People may email the library at illnb@cwmmars.org to register and the library staff will send them a Zoom invitation.

North Brookfield

Committee approves FY 2022 needs-based school budget

By Paula Ouimet
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield School Superintendent Richard Lind presented the final preliminary fiscal 2022 school budget at the School Committee meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, and members approved it.

Lind said the budget his administration believes they need in order to serve all of their students. Lind said that Chapter 70 Aid is not finalized yet, but that they expect to receive \$17,190.00 (a \$30 per student increase) or .40 percent increase over the fiscal 2021 funding. This would bring Chapter 70 funding for fiscal 2022 to \$4,308,028.00.

Lind said the town-approved budget has increased by an average of 1.2% per year over the last eight years. School Committee Chair Maria Tucker said that over 16 years, the budget has only increased by 1.73 percent. Lind said that new positions increased the budget by \$36,057, and contractual increases, which administration and teachers waived last year, increased it by another \$316,592.00. After offsets, which include pandemic relief, the fiscal 2022 Town Meeting budget request is \$6,508,168.20, a 5.67% increase from this year. The school committee approved the budget as presented. The budget will be discussed at the May/June town meeting.

Reopening updates

Lind said the district will be receiving more than anticipated from ESSER-2 (federal pandemic relief), four times as much as ESSER-1 in the amount of \$265,813.00. They will use the funding from ESSER-2 for the fiscal 2022 budget. Lind said part of that ESSER-2 funding is required to be spent on mental health and student wellness. He said they also received \$30,225.00, which needs to be spent this school year. Lind said that money will be used for the new classrooms and salaries they added to accommodate students as they returned to in-person learning.

Lind encouraged people to read the CDC’s new guidelines for reopening schools that were recently released. Lind said

North Brookfield is already following what the CDC recommends. Lind said getting teachers vaccinated will be “very important” to getting all students back in the classroom.

Tucker said having the students return full-time is the goal for all administrators. She said North Brookfield is one of the only districts that has very few remote days. She said a lot of planning has gone into the setup they have now. “It’s not perfect, but it’s working very well,” she said. A resident asked if getting all students in school was dependent on teachers getting vaccinated. Tucker said it is just one of the things they need to consider moving forward.

Rebranding Committee

Lind said that Assistant Superintendent Jeanne Powers has begun the process to compile the Rebranding Committee to adopt a new mascot and nickname for the school district. Lind said they are in need of one or two more members from the community to complete the committee. Lind said they released a survey to get suggestions for mascots and nicknames and have begun receiving ideas. Lind said they hope to have a recommendation before the school committee for approval at the June 14 meeting.

Last December at the request of former students, the committee took up the topic of whether to keep its Indian mascot and voted to end using it.

Financial report

Lind said the budget is slowly being straightened out, with some work left to do, but that they are mostly on track. Lind said they are in good shape for where they are in the school year.

Recognitions

Lind recognized Dr. Monica Boyce, a new science teacher at the Jr./Sr. high school for her creation of a virtual reality classroom. Lind said she has put together a virtual reality classroom to tie-in remote and live learning sessions, saying, “It’s pretty awesome to be honest with you.” Boyce, along with Lind and students Megan Bokis and Cole Morrill, gave a demonstration of the virtual reality classroom. The virtual classroom has an MCAS center for students with practice ques-

tions from previous year’s tests. Bokis said she likes that they “can go off on their own,” and “work at their own pace.” Lind said what interested him the most about this classroom was students and teacher could meet and talk, with a more personal atmosphere. Lind asked Bokis and Morrill if they could interact with their class better using this format. Morrill said it is a “little more real.” Lind said the format would be a much more functional use even after remote learning has ended. Lind said Boyce has shared this with the Jr./Sr. high school staff and plans to share it with the elementary staff also.

Student Council

Student Council member Megan Bokis said they have handed out the first few batches of Chromebook covers and “people are loving them.” They purchased a Cricut and they are making the covers themselves now.

Nominations for Massachusetts Student Council awards for North Brookfield are: Rebecca Miner, James Rokas Award; Mikayla Bokis, Unsung Hero Award; and Ms. Malone, Henry Sullivan Advisor of the Year Award. Bokis said that student Jake S. was chosen to be Student Council representative, along with herself, on Rebranding Committee.

Approvals

The School Committee approved the following: regular meeting minutes for Jan. 25 and special meeting minutes for Feb. 8. They also approved two PTO donations, one for \$1,100 and another for \$743.13.

Scholarships

The School Committee approved two scholarships. The Robert Salem Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 per year, to being next year and the Fly High Parker Scholarship, a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. The Fly High Parker Scholarship is in memory of Parker Shipman, who would have graduated with the class of 2021.

2021/2022 Calendar

Lind said Labor Day falls a little bit later this year, so they decided to have teachers return to school Aug. 30 to 31 with students returning Wednesday, Sept. 1. The School Committee approved the calendar.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



OHA lists lottery winners

The Oakham Historical Association announces the February winners in the annual 20-20 lottery fundraiser. They are Victoria Delacey-Biddle of East Kingston, N.H.; Ed Salminen of Mt. Hood, OR; Anne Neylon of Oakham; Jen Simone and Rich Duhamel both of Shrewsbury; Lloyd Amesbury of Woonsocket, R.I. and Karen Woodward of Barre (two times). The contest began Jan. 5 with two drawings per week and will have two \$50 winners each week until March 11 when the fundraiser ends. Each ticket costs \$20 and is valid for 20 drawings. Ticket holders can win more than once. A check is automatically mailed to the individual whose ticket number matches the middle two digits drawn in the Tuesday and Thursday evening Massachusetts Daily Number lottery. The association greatly appreciates the generous support given to this annual fundraising effort.

Church in person services

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will resume in person services Sunday, March 7 at 10 a.m. People must wear masks and practice social distancing. Sunday, March 7 is communion and family Sunday. Sunday School will resume Sunday, March 14 at 10 a.m and is held in Fellowship Hall.

Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library needs small boxes, smaller than a shoebox, for a craft project. People may drop boxes off at the library during regular hours. Fobes Memorial Library hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

The Three County Fair, Northampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more information, people may visit www.3countyfair.com.

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JOB FAIR Cannabis Cultivation Facility

High Hawk Farm, LLC is dedicated to hiring a staff of local residents who have a passion for their community. Currently our cultivation facility is looking for candidates to fill roles in the cultivation of cannabis with opportunities to grow within the company. Those with strong attention to detail, and a desire to become part of this growing industry are encouraged to apply.

High Hawk Farm, LLC is not only a cannabis cultivation facility we also have plans to expand to into the retail and manufacturing markets.

The company urges any person interested in applying to ATTEND the job fair to be held at 450 South Barre Road in Barre, Massachusetts on Monday, March 22nd 7pm-8pm.



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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I put in for Social Security now, or at 70?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I’m currently 67-years-old and still working full time. I took a big financial hit in 2008, which is why I’m still working, and I expect to continue working until I’m 70. My question is: should I take Social Security now, bank it until I’m 70, and then pay it out to myself upon retirement? Or would it be better to hold off until I’m 70 to claim? Longevity of about 85 seems to run in my family.Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: I’m afraid there’s no simple answer to your question, but I’ll give you some points to ponder.

If you don’t need the money right now, and you expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 85 for a man your current age), then waiting until you’re 70 will give you the maximum monthly benefit and the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits if you meet average longevity. And if you live beyond the average, your cumulative lifetime benefits will be correspondingly more. Since you’ve already delayed past your full retirement age of 66, you are already earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of 8% for each full year you delay (the maximum Social Security benefit is reached at age 70.

Can you do better than an 8% annual increase by claiming now and saving or investing the money? That would be the main point to evaluate, and only you know your investment options. But you should also consider that if you should die before your wife and she has reached her full retirement age, your wife will get 100% of the benefit you are receiving at your death. If you claim earlier (e.g., now), your wife will get that earlier smaller amount as your widow. Compare that to what she’ll get by you waiting until age 70 to claim, when your benefit will be about 24% more than it is now. Again, something for you to consider.

If you claim at age 70 you will have collected about the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had claimed now. That is your “breakeven” point, which is where your expected longevity comes into play. If you think you will beat the average and you do, you’ll collect much more in total lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if your family history suggests a long life and you’re in good health now, delaying is usually a prudent choice. That is, however, a decision only you can make.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.

Column

The Garden Lady takes on your houseplant questions

Elise, who enjoys reading the column from Brookfield, posed this question to the Garden Lady: “I have a number of scented geraniums in my sunroom that I dug up from my herb garden last summer. They were looking good for awhile, but within the last month their leaves have begun to turn brown. It seems to start with the older foliage, beginning with the leaf margins and working its way in. I keep picking off the bad leaves but more follow suit. Do you have any suggestions as to how I should remedy this?”

Scented geraniums were among the first herbs I ever grew! In fact, at 18 I had a windowsill of them in my bedroom. I loved how they would emit a heavenly fragrance whenever the leaves were rubbed between my thumb and forefinger. Scents like lemon, nutmeg, coconut and rose. Fast forward a few decades and I am blessed with a collection of scented geraniums in the greenhouse at Old Sturbridge Village! Although they looked great a couple of weeks ago, they too have started to show some brown leaves, exactly in the manner you explain.

My first thought is in regards to watering. You see, geraniums can be finicky when it comes to moisture. If you let them get too dry their leaves will brown; too wet and the same thing happens. Sometimes looking at the soil and watering if it “looks” dry isn’t the best thing to do, and honestly, in my haste, that is what I

See GARDEN, page 5

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist



In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 17, 2016)

The Quabbin Regional School District presented a needs budget of over \$36.5 million. This preliminary amount will get whittled down during the budget process. Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, gave a power point presentation at the public budget hearing. The amount presented was 10.4 percent higher than the adopted \$33,132,360 budget of FY 16.

A local citizen has purchased approximately 40 gift certificates for free ice cream from two local Barre establishments, the Barre Mill Restaurant and the new Becki’s Bistro. These certificates were given to the Barre Police Department with the directive that they would give “ice cream cone citations” to children and teens that were caught wearing a helmet while riding their bike, skateboard, scooter, etc. This anonymous donor thought it would be a fun way to get children to think about keeping their heads safe while enjoying the activities that they love.

The Worcester Academy announces its second semester honor roll and headmaster’s list for the 2014-2015 school year. The honors represent the achievements that each student has earned through academic excellence, challenge and personal growth. Erin Duncan, grade 8, of Rutland, was named to the honor roll. Worcester Academy is an independent co-ed day and boarding school for grades 6 to 12 and postgraduates.

10 years ago (March 10, 2011)

After over 20 years of representing the town of Hardwick on the Quabbin Regional School Committee, Cheryl Wolfe is leaving her seat. Wolf said she isn’t sure exactly how many years it has been, but says that she was part of the committee to regionalize K-12 grades and that was 25 years ago. She said she initially ran for school committee because there were issues that she wanted to see addressed. “I was president of the Parent/Teacher/Organization in Hardwick and nobody was running for the school committee seat, so I ran,” she said. Wolfe served as the committee chairman for six years. She said that she is proud of what the committee has accomplished. “We built the new high school, five elementary schools and the administrative building. I signed the bond on two of the schools.”

Mackenzie Kewley of Rutland, a sophomore nursing major, has been named to the fall 2010 dean’s list at American International College. Kewley was one of more than 500 AIC students recognized

LOOK BACK
Craft Fair at Middle School - 2011



Turley Publications File Photo
Four-year-old Sophia Diaz checks with her mom, Anne to see if she likes her flower during the annual craft and specialty fair at Quabbin Regional Middle School.

for their academic achievements.

The nine plus inches of water in the lower level of the Woods Memorial Library is gone thanks to the pumping of the parking lot that was also completely underwater by the Barre Fire Department. The library staff is working on cleaning up and hopes to have the library open by the end of the week

25 years ago (March 7, 1996)

The giant plow trucks wait patiently in a row, their payloads of sand and salt backed up to the looming doors of the highway barn, their diesel engines rumbling noisily to themselves. Snowflakes are falling thicker now; soon their long travail, and that of their hard-working drivers, will begin. Winter is always hard for those whose jobs require battling the elements, and the winter of 1995-1996 has been an endurance trial for the members of small-town highway departments.

Sen. Robert D. Wetmore, D-Barre announced today he will not be a candidate for re-election in this fall. Long recognized as a spokesman for Central and Western Massachusetts and often called “the sportsmen’s friend,” he has been a member of the Legislature since 1965. Accompanied by his wife and their young son Asa, Wetmore made the announcement this morning at Ware Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2577, where he is a member.

Members of the Barre Rainbow Assembly visited at the Oxford

Rainbow Assembly on Wednesday evening, Feb. 28 and brought back to Barre the coveted Pot of Gold which has been held this past year by assemblies in Holden, Whitinsville, Worcester, as well as Oxford. Requirements to capture this treasure are a visitation by at least five members of an assembly as well as their advisor. Betty Ward of Oakham, mother advisor, was accompanied by Kerrie-Ann Better of Gilbertville, Karrie and Kassie Modzeleski of Petersham, Beckie Ward and Lynn and Jennifer Downer of Oakham.

38 years ago (March 10, 1983)

Clinton J. Sykes was named to dean’s list for scholastic achievement during the first semester at Wentworth Institute of Technology’s College of Design and Construction, according to an announcement today by Prof. George Balich, Dean of the college. Sykes is studying Building Construction Engineering Technology and is the son of Edgar and Nora Sykes of South Street.

Theresa L. Degnan has made the dean’s list for the fall semester at Worcester Industrial Technical Institute. Theresa is the daughter of Nancy E. Degnan of New Braintree and Paul Q. Degnan of Barre. She is majoring in drafting.

Marine Cpl. Stephen M. Mercik, son of Andrea L. and Frank J. Mercik Jr. of Fruitland Road, Barre, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with the 2nd Marine Division Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

When I got up this morning I was feeling very peppy for my old age and more so after Missy gave me my breakfast with bacon bits. I do love my bits.

Then Missy had to go downstairs to the cellar for some project and me right after her. I haven’t been down cellar in a long time. Just as I got to the bottom stair, I spied a nice fat mouse by the furnace and decided to chase it. I do still try to catch them now and then. I chased the little bugger around the furnace and down the side wall toward the workbench. The mouse ran along the raised gutter rail and me on the floor after it. Then the mouse ran up the posts, which holds the shelf where master stores his boards of lumber.

The mouse looked down at me. Meantime, I plowed into water, which had come into that corner of the cellar. I shook my feet as I backed out. I looked up at the boards of lumber and I swear that mouse was laughing at me.

So, I dashed upstairs to the dining room to dry and clean my paws by the heater. What an embarrassing caper.

Later, that day Missy’s daughter and son-in-law came to visit. He came to fix Missy’s chairs, which had come loose and one of them apart. As Missy was visiting with her daughter in the living room, I climbed upon the table to watch him. That is a no no. I settled right down on the table to see everything. After fixing each chair, he put them against the farther wall to dry and not to be used for a day or two.

When they had gone home, I explored the chair area and found it fun to run over the chair seats and particular the rungs underneath. Then I decided, it was time for a rest and went onto the back of the couch to watch my birdies.

Stay safe folks and wear those darn masks. Cats are exempt.

Love,
Gertrude



How to submit photos and news to the Barre Gazette

Readers, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send the Barre Gazette their hometown news and photos.

News items and press releases should be sent in an e-mail to barrenews@turley.com as either a Microsoft Word document attachment or pasted directly into the e-mail message screen. Be sure to include who, what, when, where and why in the submission, preferably written in the third person unless it is a letter to the editor or guest column.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in the image(s) from left to right and include first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.

E-mail uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off the camera or sized at least 6 inches wide at 200 resolution, no larger than 1 megabyte.

They may be e-mailed as attachments to barrenews@turley.com or faxed to 413-967-6009. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday and e-mailed copy noon on Monday. Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

The Barre Gazette will respond to all e-mail messages received. People may call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505 for help and suggestions. People who do not have e-mail may mail these materials to: Ellenor Downer, Editor, Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Have Something to Share?

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

March is here and can spring be far behind? Vaccine clinics are helping many of the seniors get a life. More clinics will be helping and soon we will be back to normal. I hope the Governor does not close down the small community clinics, as seniors don't like to travel that far. I wrote the Governor and included the editorial in last week's Barre Gazette.

Ken and I were fortunate to get an appointment for the clinic in Gardner PACC and it was very well organized and convenient for us. I sure would like to thank all the volunteers for such a good job.

There is more snow and rain this week. We were able to get oil when the driveway was well sand-ed so we should be good for another month.

My daughter sent me this recipe she enjoyed. She asked me to have more recipes with eggs as her chickens are laying a lot of eggs now. My neighbor also called and wanted to know if we needed eggs as his hens are laying more than they can use. We get our eggs from the senior center so I did not need any. We are so thankful to the Country Hen for their generosity and to the volunteers at the Hubbardston Senior Center. In times of such stress, it seems people are so kind.

HAM AND ZUCCHINI QUICHE

1 medium zucchini
4 ounce Monterey Jack cheese
1/4-pound thin sliced ham
2 green onions, separate green from white when slicing
1 tablespoon olive oil

2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
6 large eggs
1/2 cup of reduced fat milk
1 frozen deep-dish 9-inch piecrust

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grate the cheese and zucchini. Slice the ham into ribbons. Thinly slice the green onions. In a skillet heat the olive oil and add garlic and darker green onions. Cook 1 to 2 minutes until golden brown stirring often. Add the zucchini and add a pinch of salt. Cook 3 to 4 minutes until zucchini has released some of its liquid and liquid has evaporated. Remove from heat and let cool.

In a large bowl whisk eggs, milk, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Season with pepper. Fold in zucchini, ham and half the cheese until well combined. Transfer to the pie crust. Top with the remaining cheese. Bake 35 to 40 minutes until set in center. Let stand at room temperature at least 10 minutes or up to 2 hours. Garnish with white green onions before serving.

This and That

There is still plenty of snow on Serenity Hill. I noticed my amaryllis has started to make a leaf. I hope I get a blossom. My orchids are still blooming and makes for a colorful window among the plants, which are not. I can't wait until spring comes and I can go to the nurseries again to see what is new.

The carnations Ken got me for Valentine's Day are still in good shape. I cut the stems and change the water daily and that has kept them nice.

I put away my snowman decorations and put a display of old hats on my sofa table at the stair landing. Two of the hats were worn by a great-great-grandmother and are very precious to me. I use hat stands and hatboxes to display them. Maybe I will include a picture of them for next week's column.

In my upper hall, I call it my descendant's museum; I display glass cases with items, which belonged to them with their pictures. It makes for an interesting display. My mother used to have a picture wall in the upstairs hall of her house. Many of her friends and relatives used to like to go upstairs and view it. Because I was curator of the local historical society for over 20 years, I guess I still like to curate things.

The Hubbardston Historical Society treasurer sends me the newsletter of the Templeton Historical Society and it is very interesting reading.

Recently, I got an email from a lady who is doing a research on villages of the Quabbin area. She wanted to know how the name of Catville had come about. The only thing I knew was it was the area of Healdville, but I do not know why. If anyone knows, please let me know. Was it due to so many house cats or Bobcats or wildcats in the area? A few years back I did a contest in the Barre Gazette for how many different names of areas of Hubbardston one could name. I will have to dig out the article.

Have a good week and spring is coming. Wear your masks.

waived testing due to the pandemic. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not anticipate a waiver for this year. DESE reduced test time for testing this spring. The superintendent said it was highly unlikely schools would have an option not to take MCAS tests this year. Remote students would either take the test remotely with consent for monitoring or attend school for the tests.

Teachers would need to take time away from the classroom to monitor the tests. Middle/high school principal Greg Devine said the logistics to administrator the MCAS testing with the hybrid

model would be a nightmare. He said it would not promote social, emotional well being of the students. Normally, ninth graders take the biology test, the same year they take the course. This year they would be taking that portion of the MCAS as tenth graders. Eleventh graders would be taking the English Language Art and math sections this year instead of as tenth graders.

Hardwick Elementary School principal Shelly St. George said teachers would have to prepare the students for standardized tests, maintain six foot social distancing and alter schedules, lunches and staffing.

site of what we are used to with our perennial flowers that bloom during the summer and go dormant during the winter. In late August, begin watering and leaves will sprout anew before blooming begins during the fall.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

patterned foliage.

The cyclamen plant is tuberous and unfortunately is best propagated by seed or by division of its fibrous roots. Usually this task is left to the experts who are best able to deal with erratic germination and roots susceptible to rot.

Recently I became the proud owner of my very first cyclamen (thanks, Mom!). It's always fun to get to learn about the life cycle of a new plant. With the cyclamen's bloom time during the winter, it has a period of dormancy mid spring through the end of summer when it's leaves will yellow and shed, and it will demand next to no water. This time frame is oppo-

BARRE continued from page 41

bility of Quabbin holding a virtual academy. The superintendent said there was some cursory discussion on the topic, but more research was needed.

The committee voted in favor of the cap with Hubbardston school committee member William Hansen voting no. He said he would not want to restrict families, who wanted this program.

MCAS testing

The second topic was the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System testing. Last year, the federal government

GARDEN, continued from page 4

have been doing lately. I am going back to the "finger test" and only water when the soil is dry to the touch, a few inches into the pot; maybe that will help.

Another point of interest is in regards to chlorinated water. There is some research that indicates geraniums are sensitive to chlorine. If your tap water is heavily chlorinated I would recommend that you fill a watering can with water and let it sit for 24 hours. The chlorine will dissipate before watering. Likewise, you can also run tap water through a charcoal type water filter to rid it of chlorine.

Lastly, our geraniums may be hungry. Beginning in late February and early March, scented geraniums begin to initiate flower buds and require additional nutrients to do so. I'll start feeding with a liquid fertilizer at half strength every two weeks or so to support that need. Hopefully by adopting some of this advice your geraniums will begin to look a bit happier and mine will too!

Frances has a beautiful potted cyclamen and is curious how this particular plant is propagated. "My mother always comments about the beauty of my pink cyclamen. Can I remove a leaf, insert it into the soil and expect it will root, as would an African violet's?"

Florist Cyclamen (Cyclamen persicum) is a delightful indoor plant that flowers during the winter months. Its quarter-sized blooms in red, pink and white are unique in that the petals are bent back, reflexed even, and held above pretty, heart-shaped, silver-margined leaves. There are varying types available with fancy flowers and intricately

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In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

A Barre resident called to report he has a northern mockingbird and a Carolina wren visiting

his yard.

The northern mockingbird is the only mockingbird commonly found in North America. They are primarily permanent residents, but birds in the north may move south short distances during harsh weather. It is about eight to ten inches long. It is a gray bird, with a long tail and white underbelly. It has a dark eye line and two white wing bars and dark wing tips and tail.

The female lays three to four and sometimes up to six greenish to blue gray eggs with brown spots. They build the nest in dense shrub or tree, usually about three to ten feet above the ground. The male builds most of the foundation and the female puts in the lining. The nest has a bulky foundation of twigs, supporting an open of weeds, grass, leaves lined with fine material such as rootlets, moss, animal hair or plant down. The female incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young. The young

leave the nest about 12 days after hatching. Mockingbirds have two to three broods per young.

Mockingbirds feed mainly on insects and berries. It feeds mainly on insects in late spring and summer and relies on berries and fruit in fall and winter.

The mockingbird was often captured for sale as a pet from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. As a result, it became scarce along much of the northern edge of its range. After the stopping of the cage bird trade, mockingbirds became common once again. The planting of multiflora rose, also known as living fence, was partly responsible for its spread in the northeast as mockingbirds liked the berries and used it for nesting sites.

Belchertown bluebirds

A Belchertown woman emailed about bluebirds. She said, "Just this winter, we have counted as many as nine bluebirds at once around our feeder and have them in our yard, gardens and woods at all times of the year." Several people are reporting seeing bluebirds. They are always a welcome sight and

in the sunlight, the blue is so vivid.

Carolina wren

I also have a Carolina wren, which comes to my feeders regularly. Early this week, it eating seeds off the ground. A bluejay landed on the ground near it. Often, the smaller birds leave when the bluejays come, but not this wren. It held its ground and the bluejay did not chase it away.

Bird watching

My cat, Rocky, likes to the watch the birds and squirrels at the feeders. If I ask him if he wants to watch the birds, he reaches up for me to pick him up and bring him to the window. This is a morning ritual with us. Today, there was a red squirrel under the tray feeder. He especially likes to watch the juncos.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

HARDWICK continued from page 1

Rogers also said he did not want to pay a \$5,000 retainer to cover town legal costs associated with the establishment. He also felt the 2% impact fee would cover the costs incurred for public meetings and forums. Rogers also questioned why he would be paying for an independent financial audit (of the town's choosing), when the town has already required certified accounting records.

The town proposed that Adroit Manufacturing use "best efforts" to hire Hardwick residents to staff the business. Rogers said he "loves the idea," but is not expecting to have a staff of more than eight people. He felt

this wording was geared toward a large, higher tier cultivation business, not his microbusiness. Rogers also said the CCC's regulations and background/CORI checks were very stringent in determining who could be cleared to work in a cannabis establishment. Rogers said he is very passionate about educating the public about marijuana and its uses, and asked if the town had any educational programs in place.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Kenan Young suggested Rogers work with town counsel, Attorney Nicole Costanzo, to make amendments to the draft so it would better suit his microbusiness. Selectmen Julie Quink and Kelly Kemp agreed Rogers made some valid points.

Costanzo requested that a town representative work with her and Rogers together. Young said she could reach out to him as a town representative. The board voted to approve Rogers working with town counsel by roll call vote; all were in favor. Rogers asked if he could now proceed with planning a public outreach meeting and the board said yes.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Planning Board Chairman Harry Comerford asked why the town counsel fee was increased to \$300 an hour. Costanzo said she would provide something in writing to Town Administrator Theresa Cofske about the fees. Comerford also said he would be happy to answer any questions about zoning if needed.



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Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hubbardston. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, March 8. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Gary Brigham, Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Bill Fichtel, Rick Lindsten, Evelyn Luukko, Dave Marsh, Jane McCauley, Lynn Oaks, Paula Paquette, Joan Raymond, Bruce Towner and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the former Calico and Crème on Williamsville Road in New Braintree.

HUBBARDSTON, continued from pag 1

to town meeting.

Livdahl said the planning board was also looking into a separate battery energy storage bylaw for solar and the bylaw was also from Athol. She said the town could generate PILOT money from battery storage units.

Livdahl said Hubbardston had only 5% of its total land developable and only 8% of that land had been developed. She said the board considered revising the bylaws to be more friendly to business

and younger families by allowing smaller lots – one acre with less frontage. A two acre, 200 foot frontage lot raised the cost of housing to over \$400,000.

She said there was an urgent need for affordable housing for young families and seniors and the planning board was looking at the possibility of acquiring three foreclosed lots, two on New Westminster Road and one on Streeter Road for affordable housing. The town also was in the process of surveying a lot on Ragged Hill Road for a Habitat for Humanity house. The Community

Preservation Committee approved a grant toward this.

The planning board was also considering land on Pitcherville Road for senior housing. There was a seven-year waiting list to get into Hubbardston housing. Livdahl said the next step would be a feasibility study and the board had the money for it. She also said the board was looking at a cap on retail marijuana establishments and a better process for enforcing zoning bylaws.

Select board opinion

Select board chair Dan Galante said many of the restrictions on

the Athol solar bylaw made sense. Select board member Katie Young said the solar arrays were taking up more of the land especially taking “our woods.” She said the town should proceed with caution on one acre lot zoning and said just look at Rutland with a big boom in housing.

Building moratorium

The building moratorium will expire this year. Livdahl said the town could vote to extend the moratorium for one-year and address in the Master Plan. Galante said he agreed to extending it for one-year as would allow more time for dis-

cussion and a study period.

Other business

The select board on recommendation of town counsel will ask state Sen. Gobi and state Rep. Berthiaume to present on behalf of the town an act validating the town election and send a letter to the Governor from town counsel. The town election warrant was not posted. This measure would validate the election.

Selectmen also extended the contract for KP Law, town counsel, for one-year.

Travis Brown, department of public works director, said the

town did not deficit spend last year and he did not see it happening this year. He said if he had money left at the end of the year, he would like to purchase a brine system. He said it reacted quicker when it hit the road – 15 minutes rather than 30 minutes – had environmental benefits and stayed where it was applied.

Select board chair Galante asked the highway for its assistance in removing the old playground at Curtis Recreation Field sometime in the spring or early summer. The Parks Commission will be replacing the playground.



A Hardwick youth clears the ice from a hole for ice fishing.

EQLT

continued from page 1

EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw pitched the idea of a virtual story time that included reading a book and sharing a video. Allison said he scans the pages of each book, putting it into a slideshow format, to easily show each illustration to his audience during virtual programs. The East Quabbin Book Rangers have approximately 40 families and individuals registered to receive the videos Allison compiles.

Allison then reached out to local libraries to extend the reach of his program. Many libraries were eager to take part and have even provided activity kits to accompany the story, as well as a captive audience. Allison has hosted live story time events with Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham, Young Men’s Library Association (Ware Library) in Ware and the Petersham Memorial



Turley Publications Photos Courtesy of East Quabbin Land Trust

East Quabbin Land Trust’s Youth Education Coordinator, Pat Allison.

Library in Petersham. Story times even extended to “story walks” on the New Braintree Rail Trail. Allison is in the process of scheduling programs with the Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick and Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield.

Allison has also continued to foster EQLT’s relationship with the Hardwick Youth Center, an afterschool program for youth in Hardwick, and the Quabbin Regional High School Envirothon Team. He is especially excited that the Envirothon Team is focusing on freshwater resources, an important focus for anyone concerned with conservation.

With warmer weather arriving soon, Allison is eager to bring his programming back outdoors. He is excited to offer “fact walks” in the spring when amphibians become active. The fact walk would include facts about animals in the habitat and quizzes. For more information about Brookside Adventures, East Quabbin Book Rangers, or other upcoming programs, people may visit www.eqlt.org, find “East Quabbin Land Trust” on Facebook and Instagram or contact Pat Allison, Youth Education Coordinator at youtheducation@eqlt.org.

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- We will support and encourage our local community and state leaders in their efforts to find working answers to the current substance abuse problems.

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Panthers defeated in Pod 6 semis

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

ASHBURNHAM – Quabbin was one of the six boys basketball team that competed in Central Mass. Pod 6 this winter.

The Panthers were able to defeat four of the five opponents that they faced during the regular season at least once. They swept the two game season series with both Gardner and Narragansett.

The one team that the Panthers had trouble defeating this season is the Oakmont Spartans, who entered the Pod 6 playoffs as the top-seeded team with an undefeated record.

Following a pair of double-digit losses to Oakmont at the end of January, the fourth-seeded Panthers made the trip to Ashburnham looking to pull off the upset victory against the Spartans. There wouldn't be any upsets in the Pod 6 semifinal game, as Oakmont advanced into the finals with a 41-32 home win in a hard-fought defensive battle, last Wednesday night.

"Oakmont is one of the top teams in Central Mass. this year," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "It was a very physical and grinding low scoring game where defense dominated. They were able to take away what we

do well, and we were able to take away what they did well. Our players played their hearts out and poured out an effort and tried to upset an outstanding team. We are so proud of every one of them for making the sacrifices to make this season happen."

The Panthers finished the COVID-19 shortened season with a 6-5 record. They won their first three games of the regular season and the final three. The two winning streaks were sandwiched around a four-game losing streak.

"We did have a winning season," Dextradeur said. "We beat Fitchburg and Leominster, who are both Division 1 teams."

Dextradeur, who wrapped up his 29th season coaching the boys' varsity basketball team at his alma mater, will be coaching a bunch of first-year varsity players next year. Seven of the players listed on this year's varsity roster will be receiving their diplomas in June.

"Our senior's contributions are immense to our team and our entire basketball program," Dextradeur said. "Their influence on the younger players transcends the successes they have produced on the court."

The Panthers seven seniors did accomplish a lot on the court during their high school careers.

"As underclassmen the seniors

helped us win the league championship and qualify for the Clark Tournament. They also took us to the Western Mass. semi-finals as complimentary players to a great group of seniors last year," Dextradeur added. "They led us to another winning season this year in an extremely competitive pod and every game was a battle."

Senior's Shea Skowrya and Devin Pride each scored a team-high 11 points in Quabbin's semifinal loss to Oakmont.

Skowrya, who was a co-captain, along with senior Brendan Whitelaw, just missed recording a

See PANTHERS, page 8

Wrestling still not cleared for competitions as spring looms

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In an effort to fit every sport into the modified high school seasons, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association decided to move wrestling from the winter to the spring season. With football occurring during the Fall 2 season, it was decided wrestling should take place during the spring.

However, at a recent meeting of MIAA Wrestling Committee, it was announced the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs had still not cleared the sport of wrestling for Level 3 activity, which allows for competitions to occur. If wrestling is not allowed to have level 3 activity, meets cannot occur.

See WRESTLING, page 8

Nominees for volleyball hall announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a "fans' ballot" that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. "These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades and beyond," said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. "Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that's resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we've ever had. I think it's going to be really hard for people to narrow

See VOLLEYBALL, page 9

Blue Sox name new general manager

HOLYOKE – Valley Blue Sox President Fred Ciaglo announced the hiring of Kate Avard as the team's new General Manager.

Avard, 22, will be returning to the Blue Sox organization after interning with the team during the 2016 season. The Easthampton, MA native, originally from Holyoke, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she earned a B.S. degree in Sport Management from the Isenberg School of Management and a B.S. degree studying kinesiology from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

"We're very excited to appoint Kate as our new General Manager," said Ciaglo. "Having previously served as one of our interns, she knows the culture and community-oriented mission of our organization. Given her education in sport management, Kate will bring strong business funda-

See BLUE SOX, page 9



Jordan Talbot reaches out for a layup.

Pioneers defense struggles

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School boys basketball team had a tough run in the winter season, going just 1-6. Their defense struggled late in the season, allowing a lot of points to opponents despite having a decent scoring attack. The Pioneers season started late, on Feb. 12, after the team had to wait to be cleared to play due to high-risk COVID status for most of January.



Austin Lagimaniere eyes the basket.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Nick Beaulieu shoots alone on the hoop



Darren Woward shoots for the Pioneers.

More racers gearing up for modified series

SEEKONK – When the Tri Track Open Modified Series season takes the green flag on May 1 at Monadnock Speedway, the field will be stacked full of talent. One of the talented stars is rising New Hampshire racer Matthew Kimball, who is a former Mini Stock champion and currently a competitor in the Sportsman Modified division at multiple tracks in the Granite State.

Kimball, who does have limited starts with Tri Track, is hoping to be able to run the entire six-race slate in 2021. His most important goal will be to be consistent, learn more about the Tour-Type Modifieds, and come home with solid top-10 finishes. He also plans to compete full-time at Monadnock in the Apex Racing No. 11 in the track's Sportsman Modifieds and hopes to chase the NASCAR Division I National Championship, if the first few weeks of the season go well.

"It's always good to try and get your name out there and this is a great opportunity to do that,"

Kimball said. "We want to win races, but we are going to go race-by-race, and see what the schedules look like, so we don't have conflicts. We're going to take this year step-by-step. We would like to finish top-10 in the Tri Track points."

Kimball, who won the Mini Stock title at Monadnock in 2018, started his career in go-karts, and moved to the Mini Stocks at the age of 13. From there, he sat behind the wheel of a modified at full speed for the first time at age 15, and the experience was different from anything he had dealt with before -- but he found success quickly.

"My dad had a few championships before I took over and it didn't take me too long to adapt to it," Kimball said. "I won my first race just four weeks into the season. I practiced a lot before getting into a race -- ran it towards the end of the year, and during practices, we went out as much as possible. Once you get comfortable in the



Submitted photo

Matt Kimball is another hopeful to win the Tri Track this year.

car, it's like driving any other race car."

Kimball competes regularly at Monadnock, Hudson Speedway, Claremont Speedway and occasionally Lee USA Speedway, and plans to focus on Monadnock full-time this season, along with Tri Track. Driving the No. 50 machine, Kimball has learned the ropes of the Modified over the last few

years, but knows he needs to continue to soak up the environment to be successful at the level of Tri Track competition. He finished sixth and seventh in the two Tri Track races on Monadnock's high-banks last year.

"It's a pretty big difference racing-wise from a Mini Stock to a Modified, but it just takes a few laps to get used to the throttle and

the power," Kimball said. "The biggest difference is the tone of the race. It's a lot different trying to save your tires, versus a crate car, where you go hard the whole time. I still have to figure it out. I have to figure out adjustments to make it last more than 80 laps, so we are there at the end. A lot of it is experience -- you don't really see many guys jump in a tour car and just be there at the end."

He's excited to continue to race with the talented field Tri Track offers, and is looking forward to visiting Seekonk Speedway for the first time in his career. Tri Track's 2021 schedule includes two stops at Monadnock, his home-track, two at Seekonk and two at Star Speedway, where Kimball has limited laps.

"It's a lot different racing against the big names, but they were in the same shoes we were at one point in their career," Kimball said. "I've never even been to

See RACING, page 9

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Education

Quabbin music students participate in new program

BARRE – Young people are being deeply affected by the huge challenges of today’s times; a global pandemic, social and racial unrest, a climate crisis, an insurgency, economic devastation and worst of all, isolation.

There is no question that at this formative time in their lives, they are powerless in the face of a giant mess not-of-their-making. Adding insult to misery, particularly in the age of COVID, is the elimination of the arts in school’s lesson plans.

This state-of-affairs was completely unacceptable for one of Massachusetts’ leading high school music teachers, Peter Lewis of Quabbin Regional High School. “Music is the refuge for these stu-

dents. They’re being challenged in the worst ways, the least we can do is give them back music and with it, two additional things; an opportunity to articulate their observations about the world around them and tools for them, as artists, to lead us all to build the world they want to see which is a more sustainable existence,” Lewis said.

Addressing his concerns with action, Lewis reached out to friend and colleague, Robert Spittal, a renowned composer and professor at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. They in turn teamed with Bonnie Milner, a music industry producer from Long View Entertainment in North Brookfield. Together they designed a unique

program for Quabbin’s wind ensemble.

Milner is the executive director of Clean Green Music Machine; A 501 (c)(3) organization that created rFUTURE NYC, an annual program in New York City, which engages and empowers non-traditional high school musical artists to be sustainability leaders in their communities. “We are committed to giving extraordinary young musical artists tangible mentorship, support and a platform to share their unique wisdom with the world,” said co-founder and chief purpose officer Mark Files Schwaller, “It made all the sense in the world to partner with Peter Lewis to adapt the program to a

school band format.”

The result is rFUTURE QUABBIN. The program began by guiding Quabbin band students through an exploration of music as a vehicle for personal and societal change throughout history. As an integral part of human nature, music has the potential to connect and unite people by combining sound and music with people’s deepest, shared feelings. The students learned about difficult periods throughout this country’s history and studied the songs that both reflected and led society through those dark times.

Then, working with Schwaller and Kelly Wohlford from rFUTURE, they wrote lyrics describ-

ing what is happening in their world today, how they feel about it and what they believe can be done to get through it. The lyrics were turned into an original pop song, which was produced in a partnership between Long View Entertainment and SpiritHouse Music for rFUTURE Quabbin.

Next, the student’s original song was sent to Robert Spittal. Using the song and additional input from the students as inspiration, Spittal is creating full orchestral composition, which the band will then learn and perform.

The entire process from concept to performance will be shared in a streaming event later this spring.

“The rFUTURE Quabbin program is proving to be a phenomenal success - it is inspiring and empowering band students at time when traditional programs are next to impossible even when things get back to normal, giving young musicians and leaders a platform to tell their stories is something that we as society need to do,” said Peter Lewis.

The team plans to create an open-source curriculum for the rFUTURE band program and an rFUTURE Band Festival in the coming years.

To hear rFUTURE Quabbin’s original pop song visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-rf8Q0YoPAs&feature=youtu.be>.

Pathfinder Superintendent to retire

School Committee selects Eric Duda

PALMER – For the first time since 1974, the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District will soon have a change in its top leadership. As a career and technical high school, Pathfinder Tech features 16 technical programs and robust academic offerings, including honors and Advanced Placement courses, to students in the district’s nine member towns of Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware and Warren, as well as to students through non-resident Chapter 74 tuition and school choice.

Superintendent Gerald Paist has served the district for 48 years and plans to retire as of June 30. At the last meeting of the Pathfinder Tech School Committee, members unanimously selected current Assistant Superintendent/Principal Eric Duda as the school’s next superintendent effective July 1, subject to successful contract negotiations. Following the meeting Paist expressed his solid support for the committee’s choice. “I could not think of a better individual to take my place,” he said. “We have had a wonderful relationship and have worked side by side for the past few years; I’m excited about the future!”

Paist began working at Pathfinder Tech in 1974 after serving as a member of the administration at Westfield State College for six years. He was in fact the fourth superintendent for a school that was only 2-years-old, a fact that suggests a rough beginning in



Turley Publications file photos

Pathfinder Regional School Superintendent Dr. Gerald Paist is retiring this June after 48 years with the district. Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School

the early days of the district. For the past several years, he has been the longest serving superintendent in the commonwealth. When asked why has served so long, he said, “It has been a wonderful place to work. We have an extraordinary faculty and staff, students who want to be here, supportive member communities, and a terrific School Committee”

Paist’s tenure at Pathfinder Tech has been marked by periods of growth. Early enrollment in 1973 included approximately 325 students; in recent years, enrollment has increased to over 600 students. In addition, the number of member communities has expanded from



Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School Principal Eric Duda, and assistant superintendent, has been chosen to become superintendent after Dr. Gerald Paist retires in June.

four to nine and the program offerings have risen from ten to sixteen. School Committee Chairperson Julie Quink recently paid tribute to his work:

“The success of Pathfinder and the academic successes of its current and former students have been under your watchful eye and care for nearly a half century,” she said. “The relationships that you have built with community members and member town has created a strong foundation upon which future administration can continue to build in moving Pathfinder forward in new directions and paths.”

Eric Duda himself attended Pathfinder Tech as an elec-

trical student from 1996 to 2000. Following graduation, he enrolled at Western New England University to study electrical engineering and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 2004. He then worked as an engineer in industry until, by chance, he ran into Paist at a time when Pathfinder Tech was seeking an instructor in electronics technology. With his subsequent hiring for that position, his career at Pathfinder Tech began an upward trajectory.

He served as an electronics instructor from 2006 through 2013, subsequently earning the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award and was appointed department head for that program. In recognition for his outstanding teaching and valuable service on a number of committees and activities, he was promoted to vocational director in 2013 where he oversaw instruction and curriculum in all programs. From 2014 to 2017 he also took on the added responsibilities of being a cooperative education director and expanded that program beyond expectations.

In his current role of assistant superintendent/principal, he has had his finger on the pulse of virtually every aspect of the day-to-day operation of the school. He has led the charge in a multitude of initiatives that have led to positive outcomes, including an unprecedented rise in MCAS scores and an increase in the rigor and diversity of programming.

His effectiveness as a leader has been especially evident through the current pandemic when he found it necessary to respond to

multiple federal, state, and local officials with ever changing rules and regulations regarding the health and safety of students and staff. That responsibility has been carried out flawlessly.

Duda is no stranger to the local political landscape. He was elected to the Palmer Town Council in 2009 and was that body’s president in 2010 to 2011. He also served on the Charter Commission as a member and clerk. Today, he serves as an elected member of the Planning Board in his town of residence.

During his interview with the committee, he proposed a number of initiatives, including robust outreach efforts to district students and their families; maintaining positive relations with member town officials; updating the school’s strategic plan; and the possibility of new technical programs.

In 2011, Duda earned his master of education degree in school administration from American International College and is currently pursuing his PhD. He enjoys time with his wife, Jen, and their three children.

Pathfinder Tech’s 16 program offerings include advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, business technology, CAD/pre-engineering, carpentry, collision repair, cosmetology, culinary arts, electrical, electronics technology, health assisting, horticulture, hospitality management, HVAC-R, plumbing and programming and web development.

Students interested in being considered for the 2021-2022 school year may submit an application at <https://www.PathfinderTech.org>.

Quabbin Class of 1970 to hold reunion

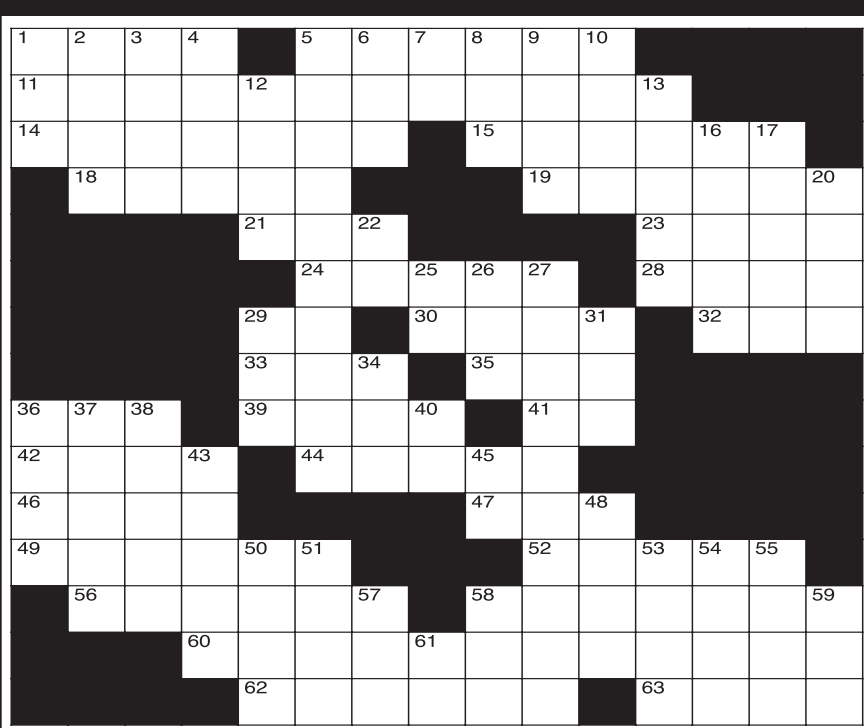
BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School Class of 1970 will be having its 50th Class Reunion Saturday, Oct. 23. The actual 50 year date was postponed due to COVID. The event is scheduled to take place at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge. The reunion will include a social hour, and dinner. Overnight accommodations are available at discounted rates. More details will be forthcoming.

Organizers are searching for classmates. A preliminary interest/opinion letter was sent out the early spring, 2020. Classmates who did not receive one should contact Margo Petracone at westwindfm@aol.com or 978-621-9812. Also, anyone who may be helpful in finding classmates or providing information should call or write.

University of Hartford dean’s list

WEST HARTFORD, CONN – The University of Hartford announces its dean’s list for fall 2020.

Local students making the dean’s list are: Sara Aremburg of Oakham, Genavieve Fay of New Braintree and Jason Smith of Rutland.



- CLUES ACROSS**
 - One of Noah’s sons
 - Openings
 - Rising from the dead
 - Expressions for humorous effect
 - North American country
 - Flowed over
 - Tags
 - Long-lasting light bulb
 - Off-Broadway theater award
 - Khoikhoi peoples
 - Beloved movie pig
 - South Dakota
 - Tai language
 - Get free of
 - Afflict
 - Transmits genetic information from DNA
 - Commercials
- Digits
 - Expression of sympathy
 - Bleats
 - Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
 - Vegetable
 - Turf
 - Disorganized in character
 - Takes
 - Rules over
 - More fervid
 - Sweet drink
 - Cry loudly
 - A friendly nation
 - CLUES DOWN
 - A title of respect in India
 - His and ___
 - Employee stock ownership plan
 - A type of bond
- (abbr.) Acting as if you are
 - Affirmative
 - Not caps
 - Type of medication
 - Monetary unit
 - Private school in New York
 - Small stream
 - A person of wealth
 - Exclude
 - Someone who vouches for you
 - Vegetable part
 - Gov’t lawyer
 - Term to address a woman
 - Swiss river
 - About senator
 - ___ Paulo, city
 - Native American tribe
 - “Titanic” actor
 - Campaign for students’ rights
- (abbr.) Capital of Senegal
 - Slang for military leader
 - Football’s big game
 - Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
 - Equally
 - Forest animal
 - Heavy stoves
 - Releasing hormone (abbr.)
 - Song
 - Type of pickle
 - Offer in return for money
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Burns wood (abbr.)
 - Beloved singer Charles
 - Three-toed sloth

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

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PANTHERS, continued from page 7

double-double in his final high school basketball game. He pulled down a total of 9 rebounds. Skowrya is planning on playing college basketball at the University of New England next year.

Senior Ryan Kowal chipped in with 8 points in the semifinal game with the help of two 3-pointers.

The other members of the senior class are Ryan Wagher, Jake Sherblom, and Nick Farrell.

Junior Connor Geary (2 points) contributed with five rebounds, five assists, and three steals in the semifinal game. Geary will be one of the Panthers key varsity players during the 2021-22 campaign and he has the potential to play basketball at the next level.

The other Panthers returning varsity players next year will be sophomore Cam Hoekstra, junior Aiden Notarogiacomo, freshman Chris Prunesti-Leveille, and sophomore Aiden Welch.

Quabbin trailed Oakmont, 11-9, at the end of the first quarter.

The Spartans, who held a 20-14 halftime lead, out-scored the Panthers 21-18 during the second half.

“We trailed by six points at the half,” Dextradeur said “We were able to keep it a one-two possession game until the end.”

Even though the Panthers didn’t have the opportunity to play in the Western Mass. Division 2 tournament again because of COVID-19, they still had a winning season this year.

WRESTLING, continued from page 7

In the meeting, it was reported that football will be observed during the next three weeks. Due to the close contact involved in football, the EEA will be looking at the sport to compare it to the close contact that will occur in wrestling. Spring sports are set to begin in late April, early May.

According to the minute of the committee meeting, if the EEA makes the decision to move wrestling into the level 3 status, then modifications for the sport will be presented for approval by the MIAA.

In addition to observation of football, the status of vaccination in the Commonwealth will also play into the lifting of restrictions at the state level. It was recently announced large sports venues like Fenway Park would be allowed to open beginning March 22 at 12 percent capacity as part of the beginning of Phase 4 of the state’s re-opening plan.

Church News

Rev. Schmidt receives Love Takes Action Award

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health Foundation has received a \$50,000 grant from the New York Life Foundation to support its Spiritual Services program.

The Love Takes Action Award program awards \$50,000 to local nonprofit organizations, which are championed by New York Life agents and employees. Foundation Trustee and New York Life agent Jean Deliso, CFP nominated Rev. Ute Schmidt, manager of Spiritual Services at Baystate Health, for her exceptional community service and the compassionate care she showed for patients and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“ Reverend Schmidt and her team chose to be by the sides of patients to bring them comfort during COVID-19. Particularly at the time when family members were not allowed to visit their sick loved ones, she felt it was and is her duty to step into the role of an intimate caregiver. She continues to place herself and her fear aside to meet the needs of her patients,” said Deliso.

Thirty-five community members from across the nation



Reverend Schmidt

embodying “Love Takes Action” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were honored with the award. Each honoree selected a nonprofit to receive the \$50,000 general support grant.

Rev. Schmidt chose to support Baystate Health’s Spiritual Services program.

Rev. Schmidt noted it is an “honor” to receive the award. “I share this award with the entire spiritual care team at Baystate

who every day brings a compassionate presence to patients, family members and staff. There is a positive relationship between spirituality and health. The role of spirituality and healing, however, is sometimes overlooked in healthcare. The Love Takes Action Award brings national recognition to and elevates the role of spiritual care and for that I am truly grateful,” said Rev. Schmidt.

To explore giving options to the Baystate Health Foundation in support of all Baystate Health hospitals, programs and services, people may visit baystatehealth.org/giving.

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – “It’s all in a name,” based on the Book of Genesis 7, 1-7 and 15-17 was the sermon presented by Deacon Ginny Rich at the Tri-Parish Community Church service in the New Braintree Congregational Church on Sunday, Feb. 28. She also gave the worshippers this thought for the week: “If there is no God, how did a rustic carpenter change the world?

Do you recognize the names Theudas Dositheus or Bar Cochba? Probably not. But, they were Jews of the early Christian era who claimed to be the Messiah. Two thousand years later, Jesus Christ – the one Christians call the true Messiah – commands an estimated two billion followers around the globe.”

The T.P.C. will tentatively meet via Zoom at 6 p.m. on March 4. If anyone would

like to participate, please send your contact information to t.chisholm527@gmail.com.

On March 7 at 10 a.m., Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons will return to the New Braintree Congregational Church. She will be assisted by Jennifer Pollard. All are welcome with social distancing and masks. Rev. Fitzgibbons will also continue to assist the Tri-Parish on how to obtain a minister.

Congregational church to hold drive-thru dinner

BARRE — The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will host a drive-thru chicken parmigina dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27 with pick-up time from 5-6 p.m. The meal also includes antipasto salad and dessert. Adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$5. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

Local pastor offers sermon

When God says “not yet”

Learning to wait upon the Lord is one of the more difficult aspects of being a Christian, yet everyone must endure such seasons. In this edition, let us consider a series of biblical selections that should inform our waiting. Enjoy.

1) Psalm 27:14
Psalm 27:14

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.

This psalm of David calls the reader to wait on God in a spirit of unwavering courage. It never ceases to amaze me how often the Bible calls us to “fear not.” In the midst of waiting on the Lord, it is all too easy to give into anxiety, wondering if God has heard you or is even aware of your plight! Let us find necessary courage in this timeless and timely portion of Scripture.

2) Lamentations 3:25
Lamentations 3:25

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

This passage, penned by the prophet Jeremiah, calls us to trust in the fundamental goodness of God. If your petition was in sync with His good will and purpose, rest assured that it is His delight to respond in His good timing (1 John 5:14-15). Remember that it is the good pleasure of your heavenly

Father to “give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32)! Until He responds, persist in prayer and continue to seek Him.

3) Proverbs 3:5-6
Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

The Christian life is founded upon faith. We are saved by faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), and at no point do we live by anything but faith in Him (Rom. 1:17). Thus, seasons of waiting provide the perfect occasion to hone your capacity to trust! Allow His apparent delay to be the opportunity to stretch and strengthen the muscle of your faith.

4) Psalm 40:1
Psalm 40:1

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

Patience is not the ability to wait. Rather, it is the ability to wait with a good attitude. We live in a generation that demands immediate result. We get nervous waiting for our meals to cook in the microwave! Yet the Lord often takes His time (i.e., appearing late by our standards), so we must learn to practice a modicum of patience. You may not be able to change your circumstance, but you can change how you respond in the

midst of it.

5) Isaiah 40:31
Isaiah 40:31

31 . . . they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Herein we find a sacred promise: those who wait upon God shall find sufficient strength to persevere. There will come moments in your faith-journey when you are depleted and ready to quit. However, it is at such times that we are supernaturally enabled to endure in ways that transcend human understanding. If you are weary and heavy-laden in this moment of waiting, look to the One who gives rest (Matt. 11:28-30).

6) Micah 7:7
Micah 7:7

7 But as for me, I will look to the Lord;

I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

The declaration “I will look to the Lord” is profound. Herein, Micah reveals that he has determined to wait upon the Lord despite adversity, affliction and apparent delay. In other words, he made a choice, and he was sticking to it. Never underestimate the power of personal decision. You can choose to trust or you can choose to abandon all hope in God. Ultimately, it is up to

you-so choose wisely.

7) Galatians 6:9
Galatians 6:9

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Christianity is not concerned with how you begin, but in how you finish. There is no benefit in starting the marathon of faith only to quit it a few miles in. God has great things in store for those who wait on Him, but we must learn to push through our weariness and faint not. As I said above, choose wisely in the midst of life and living, hoping in the power of God to bring about breakthrough and more! The One who called you is faithful (1 Thess. 5:24).

In summary, what should we do in our seasons of waiting? Let us take courage, trust in His goodness, practice a bit of faith and patience, rely upon His strength, determine to persist and faint not. Do these things and watch what God can do in and through you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley
*New Life Assembly of God
South Barre*

VOLLEYBALL, continued from page 7

down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year’s Induction that much more special for the selected class.” The new class of Inductees will

be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Aguerro, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann, Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu, Sergio Dutra Santos, Giovane Gavio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter

Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyuhkhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

BLUE SOX, continued from page 7

mentals, creativity and a passion for baseball to the Blue Sox front office.”

While at UMass Amherst, Avard served as the Intramural Special Events Assistant and held multiple internships within the Athletic Department.

After graduating from UMass Amherst, Avard enrolled in graduate courses studying athletic training and emergency medicine at Boston University.

Avard is eager to return to MacKenzie Stadium and expand her role with the organization.

“Growing up in Holyoke, I attended many Holyoke Giants

games, then later Blue Sox games, with my family which is where I fell in love with the sport of baseball,” said Avard. I later interned with the team and saw firsthand the positive influence the team had on the local families and local community, similar to what I had personally experienced growing up,” she added.

“The Blue Sox reputation has grown tremendously over the past few years, making the team a staple throughout Western Mass, said Avard. “Stepping into the role of General Manager, I hope I am able to build upon the relationship the organization has with the community and grow the team in the coming years.”

RACING, continued from page 7

Seekonk, so that will be tough. But I feel confident in Monadnock and I’ve won at Star in the Mini Stock. The difference at Star with a car with a lot more power will require a different line and everything. It should be a lot of figuring out different setups this year.”

With support from his family and friends, and his sponsors, Kimball wouldn’t be able to drive on the track. His sponsors include APEX Racing, KRJ Jewelry, Edmunds Ace

Hardware, Peterboro Tools, Tyler’s Small Engines, Trends of Fashion, Birch Wood Inn, Beangroup and more. He’s lucky to have a stout list of supports behind him to help him compete at a high-level.

“I’m just going to be playing it by ear and get the cars ready and go for Monadnock, I’ll be running three races in that same weekend,” Kimball said. “Between the two Sportsman Modified races and the Tri Track race, it will be a busy weekend. I’m also going to be able to race my dad, who will run our family

car in a few races this year. I’ve beaten him three times, and he’s beaten me once, so hopefully I can keep the good streak going. I’m just hoping to be there at the end of each race this year.”

Kimball is just one of more than 15 drivers who have already registered to compete in the entire Tri Track slate for the 2021 season. Registration is open and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.

The Tri Track Open Modified

Series will visit three historic New England tracks, twice each, to make up the six-race schedule for 2021. The series will stop at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, New Hampshire on May 1 and August 14, while visiting Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire on May 22 and July 24. The anticipated return to Seekonk Speedway, scheduled for June 30 and October 23, will mark two staple events -- the \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday in June and the Haunted Hundred to wrap the season.

Obituaries

John D. Ruddy, Jr., 62



CHARLTON/BARRE — John D. Ruddy Jr., 62, passed away peacefully in UMass Memorial Health Center University Campus surrounded by his family on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 after suffering a stroke. John is survived by his loving wife, of 33 years Mary (Bercume); a daughter, Candace and her husband James of North Brookfield; a son, Nicholas of Charlton; a daughter, Mackenzie and her husband Daniel of East Brookfield; three granddaughters Manhattan, Reese and Reilly; many siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. He was predeceased by his father and sister, Elaine Hibbard.



John was born July 6, 1958 Ware to John D. Ruddy Sr. and Beverly (Bostrom) Wentworth. He was a 1976 graduate of Quabbin Regional High School. John served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976-1979 and was honorably discharged due to injury. After serving in the USMC, John became an EMT and also worked at the USPS in Springfield from 1985-2006.

John was an avid New England sports fan and especially loved Ted Williams, a Marine himself and the Boston Red Sox. He loved to collect sports and military memorabilia. He enjoyed spending his summers with his wife at their campsite at Sutton Falls

Camping Area in Sutton.

Family and friends are invited to calling hours on Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 4-6 p.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. Funeral services will be private. Burial with Military Honors will be in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project or Disabled Veterans of America.

DEATH NOTICE

Ruddy Jr., John D.
Died: Feb. 26, 2021
Funeral Services will be private

Andrew Parker helped build first Barre church

By Jane McCauley

BARRE – While reading the book on Parker genealogy written by Theodore Parker in 1893, I became aware of how important Andrew Parker was to the history of Barre. Much of this information came from the book.

Andrew Parker was born April 11 1738 in Lexington, the son of Andrew and Sarah Whitney Parker. His diary is preserved in the Worcester Antiquarian Society. He moved to the Rutland district known as Barre on Dec. 8, 1763 and lived there until he died in May of 1791.

Andrew purchased 56.5 acres of land northwest of the meetinghouse lot in 1777. The plot extended south from Petersham town line to the lower fordway of Moose Brook, which is the road from Barre to Petersham.

He was very active in town affairs and became Selectman in 1783 and 1787. He became town clerk in 1787 and was town moderator for 15 times. He served on a town committee to enlarge the Town Common and on a

committee to draw plans for a new meeting house in May 9, 1785. When he came to Barre he had to drive 10 miles to a church in Rutland so he decided Barre needed a church and he was made a deacon.

In 1774 he was made a Lt. 1st Co. of the militia. At that time 1/6 of the population of Barre served in the Revolutionary War.

He was instrumental in changing the name of the town from Hutchinson to Barre. The name of Hutchinson the Tory, was very disgusting to the patriots of this town of liberty.

In January of 1787 he served on a grievance committee for Shay’s Rebellion and School District Committee on Jan. 25 1790.

As a woodworker and joiner he made many wagons, farm implements, house furniture and was famous for his spinning wheels of which many in Barre had them. He helped build the first church of Barre.

Andrew and his wife Abigail Jennison had five children and two stayed in Barre.

Country Bank welcomes new senior VP of innovation/technology

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announces Dr. Peter Morales has joined their Innovation and Technology Division as a senior vice president.

Morales, who resides in Sturbridge, has held several technical leadership positions, most recently as vice president and CIO for an international educational organization supporting more than 45,000 students in 40 plus countries worldwide. Morales also held positions at New York University (leading technology at the Law and Engineering schools) and the New York and American Stock Exchanges.

Morales began his career developing diagnostic systems for the F18, the jet that the Blue Angels currently fly. He holds degrees in electrical engineering, a Master’s in engineering management and a Doctorate in computer science and information systems. He continues to teach in two Master’s programs at NYU and is on the Board of Directors for several incubator startups and non-profits.

He enjoys spending time with

his wife, Karen Vezina-Morales; the Vezina trophy in hockey is named after her great uncle, Georges. They have a son, Christopher, a computer scientist and a daughter Katie, a fine arts major.

“We are extremely excited to welcome Dr. Morales to our leadership team; his extensive background as a senior technology leader in a variety of industries brings an exciting level of strategic thought and direction to the Country Bank brand of Community Banking. His commitment to technology development, high-performing teams, and experience as an educator aligns with our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence and Prosperity. We are proud that Peter has chosen Country Bank to be his Employer of Choice,” said Miriam Siegel, senior vice president of human resources.

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester.

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Barre Gazette

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

THE BARRE GAZETTE – *Serving the towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham & Rutland since 1834*

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 21
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
5:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Barre Road – Citation Issued
8:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Summer Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Keeshonn Wilson, 29, Brighton
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense; Stop/Yield, Fail To

Monday, Feb. 22
1:02 p.m. Falls Station Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 23
6:15 p.m. Missing Person West Street – Information Taken

Wednesday, Feb. 24
7:17 p.m. Erratic Operator Pleasant Street – Citation Issued

Thursday, Feb. 25
1:05 p.m. Suspicious Activity Valley Road – Report Filed
5:36 p.m. Sick/Unknown Peach Street – Ambulance Canceled
6:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued

Friday, Feb. 26
5:26 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Austin Street – Officer Spoke to Party

10:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
11:10 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning North Brookfield Road – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 27
7:52 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Austin Street – Officer Spoke to Party
8:56 a.m. Breathing Difficulty Broad Street – Transported to Hospital
10:03 a.m. Falls Fruitland Road – Referred to Other Agency

SOUTH BARRE

Friday, Feb. 26
5:16 p.m. Threats Grove Street South – Officer Advised

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 21
9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
10:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
7:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Christian C. Miller, 34, Hubbardston
License Revoked as HTO, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Number Plate Violation

Monday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Lindsey A. Rockwood, 36, Spencer
Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle
4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed
8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Larceny Prentiss Hill Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Michael K. Prentiss, 40, Hubbardston
Use Motor Vehicle Without Authority; License Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With; OUI-Drugs; Firearm Without FID Card, Possess; Ammunition Without FID Card,

Possess; Shotgun/Rifle in Motor Vehicle/Plane/Boat, Loaded; Firearm, Store Improper; Resist Arrest; Drug, Possess Class B

Tuesday, Feb. 23
3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Worcester Road – Report Filed

Wednesday, Feb. 24
7:45 a.m. Falls Shawnee Way – Transported to Hospital
11:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Harriet Mutesi, 34, Athol
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Thursday, Feb. 25
1:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Ruben A. Corbo-Porto, 45, Gardner
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation of Conceal ID
5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Williamsville Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Philip E. Pond, 24, Hubbardston
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

8:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
Summons: Jason W. Menezes, 37, Winchendon
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Friday, Feb. 26
10:20 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Gardner Road – Officer Took Call
4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
7:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
7:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Elm Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old Boston Turnpike – Citation Issued

Saturday, Feb. 27
5:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Steven K. Clarkson, 41, Hubbardston
Registration Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Inspection/Sticker, No
9:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Old Westminster Road – Vehicle Towed

Hardwick Police Log

For the week of Feb. 22-March 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 85 building/property checks, 7 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, 19 directed/area patrols, 1 scam, 2 safety hazards, 2 animal calls, 15 traffic controls and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 22
11:05 a.m. Phone – Scam North Road – Spoken To

Tuesday, Feb. 23
12:38 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 24
1:55 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Broad Street – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 25
6:56 a.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Highland Terrace – Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 26
6:01 a.m. 911 – Misdial Barre Road – Spoken To
4:08 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Collins Road – Services Rendered
5:40 p.m. 911 – Animal Call Ruggles Hill Road – Taken to Family/Guardian

Saturday, Feb. 27
3:26 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued
3:38 p.m. 911 – Elevator Call/Alarms Old Petersham Road – Spoken To
7:31 p.m. Phone – Alarm Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
11:09 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Rte. 32 – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Feb. 28
8:31 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Barre Road – Removed Hazard
8:58 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

For the week of Feb. 22-March 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 24 building/property checks, 6 radar assignments, 1 motor vehicle stop, 24 directed/area patrols, 10 traffic controls, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 safety call and 4 emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 22
10:04 a.m. Initiated – Fire, Chimney

Friday, Feb. 26
9 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency

Utley Road - Extinguished
3:55 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident West Road – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 24
5:30 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
1:22 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard West Brookfield Road – Removed Hazard
1:33 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Wine Road – Checked/Secured

Sunday, Feb. 28
6:45 p.m. Phone – Neighbor Dispute Ravine Road – Spoken To

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 21
1:39 p.m. Choking Scott Road – Public Assist
4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
6:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

Wednesday, Feb. 24
2:43 p.m. Larceny/Theft Adams

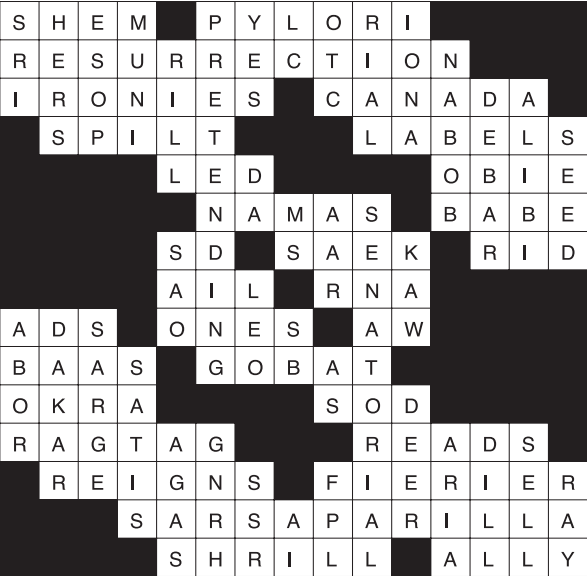
Road – Officer Took Call
4:19 p.m. Larceny/Theft Farm Pond Road – Officer Took Call

Thursday, Feb. 25
1:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

Friday, Feb. 26
9:11 a.m. Erratic Operator

Worcester Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Mary O. Antwi, 25, Worcester
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Saturday, Feb. 27
2:08 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning New Braintree Road – Transported to Hospital



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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 21
7:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued
12:43 p.m. Fraud/Forgery East County Road – Report Filed
1:39 p.m. Choking Scott Road – Public Assist
2:51 p.m. Trauma Main Street – Transported to Hospital
4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Vehicle Towed
6:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
6:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Monday, Feb. 22
2:40 p.m. Sick/Unknown Main Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:06 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope Pleasantdale Road – Transported to Hospital
4 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Barre Paxton Road – Report Filed
5:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Maple Avenue – No Fire Service Necessary
10:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity Main Street – Report Filed

Tuesday, Feb. 23
9:06 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain Jackson Avenue – Transported to Hospital
3:32 p.m. Erratic Operator Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning
6:45 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Victoria Avenue – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 24
9:50 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Barre Paxton Road – Officer Spoke to Party
11:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Anibal Rivera-Santiago, Jr., 27, Norwich, CT
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Inspection/Sticker, No
12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Kyle E. Kalldian, 27, Rutland
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle
3:28 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Turkey Hill Trail – Public Assist
7:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Fisherman's Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Michael J. Rogan, 43, South Barre
Warrant

Thursday, Feb. 25
8:08 a.m. Serve Warrant Locke Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Todd L. Hodges, 62, Rutland
Warrant
9:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run Pleasantdale Road – Citation Issued
9:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued
10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Nicholas J. Curry, 37, Orange
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No

11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Citation Issued
12:43 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Main Street – No Action Required
2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Joshua E. Davidson, 58, Holden
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Warrant

Friday, Feb. 26
7:21 a.m. Larceny/Theft Pleasantdale Road – No Action Required
10:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Written Warning
1:21 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Glenwood Road – Transported to Hospital
3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning
10:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning
11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued
11:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Saturday, Feb. 27
1:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning
2:08 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning New Braintree Road – Transported to Hospital
4:54 p.m. Missing Person Campbell Street – Located/Found
11:02 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Residential Maple Avenue – Report Filed

Gobi announces committee assignments and staffing

SPENCER – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) returned to the State House for the 2021-2022 legislative session.

With the Senate ratifying assignments, Gobi has been reappointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Higher Education and will now serve as Vice Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Redistricting. Additionally she will continue to serve as a member on the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee. New to the 2021-2022 session, Gobi has been tapped to serve as a member on the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, and the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “I

am looking forward to an exciting and challenging session as we work together to recover and thrive. In addition to my committee appointments the office stays very busy responding to concerns and answering questions. I am fortunate to have a wonderful staff that assists in providing personal and professional service to all who live and work in the district.” she said.

Gobi will be joined by returning staff. W. Stuart Loosemore serves as chief of staff and general counsel and manages budget policy and local budget requests.

Yael D. Langer will continue to serve as legislative director. Langer oversees Senator Gobi's legislative portfolio and provides staffing for

all committee assignments.

Derek J. Silver, a Hardwick native, will serve as communications director and scheduler. Silver manages the senator's schedule and is the primary point of contact for all press inquiries.

Lucas G.F. McDiarmid, a Palmer resident, continues as district director. He provides grant assistance for district municipalities, manages intergovernmental affairs and assists with constituent services.

Craig Lundberg continues to serve as director of constituent services. Lundberg provides assistance to constituents on a variety of matters, helping to navigate the executive branch and state agencies.

DOT changes rules for emotional support animals on U.S. flights

If you are planning on a much-needed getaway in the United States by air and taking your emotional support animal, double check the changes recently issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The changes were deemed necessary for air traveler safety, after numerous concerns were cited by several individuals regarding service animals in limited aircraft space.

Here are some specifics on the new rules for service animals when flying.

The definition of a service animal is a dog, which is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

DOT no longer considers an emotional support animal to be a service animal. They can be con-

sidered as pets. Psychiatric service animals are treated the same as other service animals.

The change allows airlines to require forms developed by DOT attesting to a service animal's health, behavior, and training. If taking a long flight, the owner must attest that the service animal either would not need to relieve itself or can relieve itself in a sanitary manner.

Public Notices

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Conduit Petition

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto, please be advised that at their meeting of **Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:45pm** held either at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, or alternatively virtually on the Zoom platform, login information can be found on mytown-government.org/01005, the Barre Board of Selectmen will consider a request to give Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc. Respectfully represents the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID of North Andover, Massachusetts, that it desires to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way. The following are the streets and highways referred to: 29978299 Barre Depot Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 2500 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Vernon Ave. and Barre Depot Rd. and continuing approximately 230 feet in a southwest direction; National Grid to install 2 new manholes, install two conduits, and install 3-500 CU EPR. For the Board of Selectmen Sandra Hood Administrative Assistant 02/25, 03/04/2021

Town of Barre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Host Community Agreement with High Hawk Farm, LLC

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA for the purpose of the second review of an updated and amended Host Community Agreement proposal for a Marijuana Product Manufacturer license at 101 Daunt Road by High Hawk Farm, LLC. A full copy of the Host Community Agreement may be found at www.townofbarre.com.

townofbarre.com. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

This will be a virtual meeting in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current State of Emergency. There will be no in-person attendance by the public. Persons may attend and participate in the hearing by using the online Zoom application at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82619781437?pwd=RTk0OHF2b1pMQlZlKNTRQVVCZCZlRQT09orbycalling+1312626799>. **Meeting ID:** 826 1978 1437, **Passcode:** 458956.

For the Board of Selectmen:

Jessica Sizer
Town Administrator
03/04, 03/11/2021

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Pole Petition

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto, please be advised that at their meeting of **Monday,**

March 15, 2021 at 6:30pm held either at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, or alternatively virtually on the Zoom platform, login information can be found on mytown-government.org/01005, the Barre Board of Selectmen will consider a request to give Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc. permission to install (8) JO poles on Barre Depot Rd., remove (8) JO poles on Bare Depot Rd., relocate (2) JO poles on Barre Depot Rd. beginning at a point approximately 1200 feet south east of the centerline of the intersection of Vernon Ave. and Barre Depot Rd. and continuing approximately 1488 feet in a south direction. National Grid relocating poles along Barre Depot Rd., Barre, MA. If you have any questions you can contact the Select Board's Office at (978) 355-2504 x 135.

For the Board of Selectmen

Sandra Hood
Administrative Assistant
02/25, 03/04/2021

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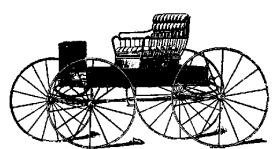
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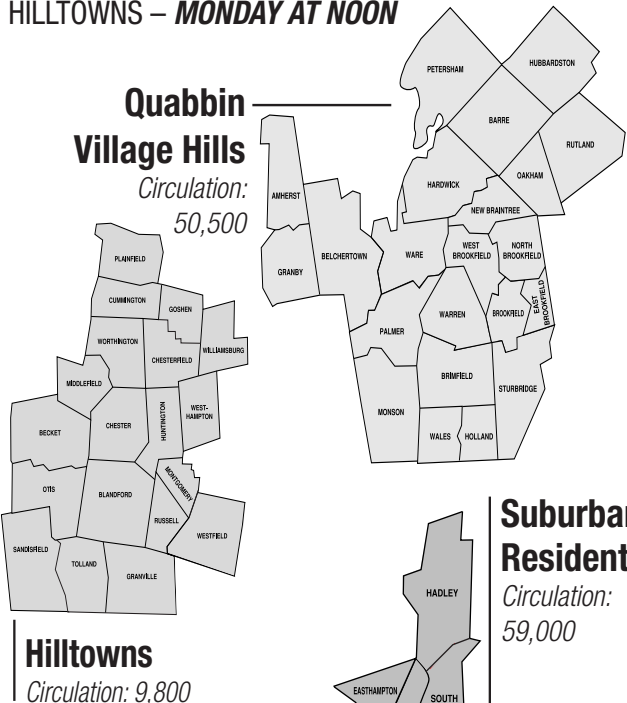


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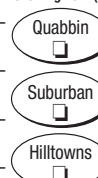
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Invasive plant treatment begin at Hardwick Pond

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Pond Preservation Association president Gary Mascitis and vice president Bill Zinni provided the Hardwick Board of Selectmen with an update on the aquatic plant control treatment plan at the pond.

The association is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization formed to “restore, preserve and protect

the ecological health of Hardwick Pond,” according to their website. Back in 2018, the town helped the association secure a bond from the state in the amount of \$67,500 to remove the invasive aquatic plants, namely fanwort and milfoil, which are overtaking Hardwick Pond.

During this time, they discovered an endangered orchid that is native to the area, growing from the sphagnum moss. The association formed a team to put together

a plan to show they can treat the invasive plants with herbicide, without harming the rare orchid. In 2019 they began phase 1 of this plan, by testing in a laboratory. After the success of phase 1, in 2020 the team moved onto phase 2, which was to ensure they would not harm the surrogate orchid. The report from phase 2 showed that the all of the surrogate orchids were unaffected by the herbicide.

Mascitis and Zinni said that

the phase 1 and 2 lab costs totaled around \$3,400 each. They are now working with their team to plan a field test on a 5-acre area of the pond in May or June (when the orchids bloom). The area would cover the southwest corner to the submerged island near the boat landing/parking lot. The cost to treat the five-acres is \$14,000. Zinni, along with biologists and botanists from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program,

will collected data on how the orchid is responding during the herbicide treatment. If the field test is successful, the association hopes to treat the entire pond in 2022. Zinni said, “we had great success” with the in-lab testing with the orchids. He said that Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program is more comfortable with the limited treatment field test on the pond after the success of the lab tests.

Mascitis said, “We’ve come a long way. It’s a milestone we are proud of,” referring to the invasive aquatic plant treatment project that began in 2017. Zinni told the board they may need the town to release about \$14,000 of the bond money this summer to pay for the partial treatment. There is about \$60,000 remaining in the bond. SOLitude Lake Management in Shrewsbury will be administering the herbicide treatment.

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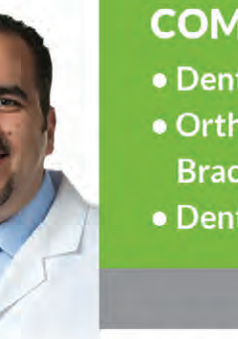
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